NOTE XXII.

ON A NEW PORCUPINE FROM SOUTH-AMERICA.

BY

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Cuvier ¹) figured the skull of *Hystrix prehensilis*, and afterwards Brandt ²) gave figures of the same species. On comparing these figures it strikes one that great differences exist between these figures, and the questions arise: has either of the two authors perhaps figured a skull of another species sub nomine *H. prehensilis?* which is the true *H. prehensilis?*

In our Museum I found three stuffed specimens and three skeletons labelled *H. prehensilis*: two skeletons were collected at Surinam by Dieperink in the year 1835; they agree in all details; the third skeleton we took out of a specimen, purchased 1877 from the Zoological Gardens at Rotterdam, s. n. *H. prehensilis.*

In the Surinam skeletons I find the following numbers of vertebrae: dorsales 16 with 15¹/₂ costae, lumbares 5, sacrales 3, caudales 32: in the Rotterdam skeleton on the other hand dorsales 15 with 15 costae, lumbares 7, sacrales 3 and caudales 35.

I find the following differences in the measurements of the skulls which are of the same length — 91 m. m.

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1) Muséum d'histoire naturelle, 1822, T. IX, pl. 20 ter, fig. 3 et 4.

2) Mémoires de l'Académie impériale des sciences de Saint-Pétersbourg, 1835, T. I, pl. IX, fig. 5, 6, 7, 8 et 9.

	Surinam sk.	Rotterdam sk.
	m. m.	m. m.
Width between parietalia	51	41
Width between jugalia	56	53
Height of skull	47	45
Length of nasal bones	28	39
Width of nasal bones	27	25,5
Distance between incisor and first upper molar	25,5	23,5

Now it is evident that the skulls being of the same length, the Rotterdam specimen has all its proportions smaller except the length of the nasal bones. Moreover the roof of the skull of the Rotterdam specimen is more vaulted; whereas the difference between the shape of the lower jaws is another peculiarity of this species.

And now the figures given by Cuvier agree entirely with our Surinam skulls, and those given by Brandt with our Rotterdam skull.

Neither Cuvier nor Brandt have mentioned in the above named works the number of vertebrae, but Wagner ¹) in his list states that according to Cuvier the *Synetheres prehensilis* has 16 vertebrae dorsales, 5 lumbares, 3 sacrales and 30 caudales, which numbers agree very well with these of our Surinam specimens. Cuvier's examples were from Guyana, those of Brandt from Brazil, presented by Langsdorff. As Cuvier is the first author who gives figures of Porcupine skulls with clear descriptions, we may consider his Porcupine as the true *Hystrix prehensilis*, Brandt's Porcupine is consequently another species, which agrees with our specimen from Rotterdam. I propose to name this species after Brandt, *Hystrix Brandtii.*

Brandt ²) figures another skull of a young specimen of Porcupine, about which he remarks: "junioris aetatis animalis cranium, ob ossa nasi et frontis minus elevata *cercolabis insidiosi* cranio longe similius." Here Brandt

1) Schreber, Säugethiere, Suppl. Band III, 1843, p. 142.

2) O. C. tab. X, fig. 1 and p. 397.

must have had before him a skull of the true *H. prehensilis*, characterized by having the nasalia less elevated, the frontalia broader and on the whole a narrower skull.

In his "interpretatio" (p. 424) Brandt states that the skull (tab. IX, fig. 5) is "one third" the natural size, it must apparently be "two thirds."

Hystrix prehensilis auctorum.

General colour rusty brown. All the quills are yellowish near the base; most of them have a rusty brown ring and a yellowish white tip, never exceeding 13 m. m. in length. The longest quills measure 77 m. m., which agrees very well with the measurements given by Buffon [1]), who states "les plus long piquans sur le corps ont 2 pouces 8 lignes = 73 m. m." According to Shaw [2]) the longest quills measure 77 m. m. (three inches).

Here and there and principally upon the haunches there are quills without such yellowish white tips; so these are yellowish white near the base and for the rest rusty brown. The dorsal half of the tail is covered for the greater part with quills of the same nature as those on the back. Towards the point the tail is almost naked. The underside of the tail near the root is covered with strong bristles yellowish white colored, towards the end of the tail they are entirely brown with short yellowish white bases.

There are a few very long black bristles among the quills of belly and legs.

The vertebral column consists of 16 vertebrae dorsales, with $15^1/_2$ costae, 5 lumbares, 3 sacrales and 32 caudales.

I cannot give the measurement of the length of the tail, because the point is wanting. But the number of caudal vertebrae being 32 and in *H. Brandtii* 35 I believe the tail is longer in the latter. Buffon, l. c. gives the length of the tail of his *Coundoe à longue queue* 1 pied

1) Histoire naturelle, suplément, T. VII, 1789. p. 125.

2) General Zoology, mamm. 1801, Vol. II, part. I, p. 7.

5 pouces 6 lignes = 475 m. m., consequently shorter than the head and body, which measured according to Buffon 2 pieds 6 lignes = 663 m. m. The tail of *H. Brandtii* on the other hand is longer than the head and body together.

At present there is one stuffed female of this species in the Leyden Museum, labelled Brazil, as well as two skeletons from Surinam, presented by Dieperink.

Hystrix Brandtii, n. sp.

General colour dusky chestnut. The quills are longer than those of *H. prehensilis.* The longest measures 110 m. m. They are pure white near the base, each ringed with dusky chestnut, the points being almost entirely white for about 16 m. m. There are other quills which are white at the base only and for the rest dusky chestnut. Dorsal parts of the tail conform to the back, for the rest covered with short bristles and colored as in *H. prehensilis.* The longer bristles of belly and legs are black and tipped with white.

The vertebral column consists of 15 vertebrae dorsales with 15 costae, 7 lumbares, 3 sacrales and 35 caudales.

	L. M. m. m.	according to Brandt. m. m.
Length of head and body	433	407.
Length of tail	568	540.

There are now of this species two stuffed females in the Leyden Museum, one of them from Surinam [1] (Dieperink), the other one (from an unknown locality) died in the Zoological Gardens at Rotterdam; one skeleton taken from the latter specimen, and the skull of the Surinam specimen.

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[1] This must be the specimen, about which Waterhouse (in his excellent Work, titled "A Natural history of the Mammalia, 1848, Vol. II, p. 414") remarks "A specimen in the Leyden Museum, and which is labelled as coming from Surinam, measures 20 inches in length, following the curve of the back; its tail is about 23 inches in length, and therefore proportionately longer than in the animals belonging to the Zoological Society; in other respects it does not differ, excepting that the hairs on the tail are dusky brown." The figure of the skull, o. c., plate 18, fig. 2 being copied from Brandt's figure is that of *Hystrix Brandtii* mihi.